



2024 THEME

Moving To Impact More In '24
CONGREGATION • CULTURE • COMMUNITY

BBC Newsletter – July 2024

“So I commend the enjoyment of life, because there is nothing better for a person under the sun than to eat and drink and be glad. Then joy will accompany them in their toil all the days of the life God has given them under the sun.”

(Ecclesiastes 8:15 NIV)

Summer Vacations

Summer vacation serves as a period of rest and rejuvenation for both Black and white communities in America, yet the ways in which each group utilizes this time often reflect distinct cultural and socioeconomic contexts.

For many white families, summer vacation typically involves trips to popular tourist destinations, beach resorts, or outdoor recreational activities like camping and hiking. It's a time to unwind, enjoy leisure pursuits, and create lasting memories with family and friends. These vacations may also include educational experiences such as visits to historical sites or museums, providing opportunities to learn about the country's heritage.

In contrast, Black families often approach summer vacation with a blend of leisure and cultural enrichment. While enjoying similar recreational activities, such as vacations to scenic locations or theme parks, there is often a deeper emphasis on connecting with cultural roots and community. Many Black families use this time to attend family reunions, cultural festivals, or events that celebrate their heritage through music, food, and storytelling.

Moreover, summer vacation for Black families may include educational enrichment programs, mentoring initiatives, or community service activities aimed at fostering personal growth and social responsibility among younger generations. These efforts reflect a commitment to both personal development and community empowerment.

Overall, while both Black and white families value summer vacation as a time for relaxation and bonding, the differences lie in the emphasis on cultural heritage, community engagement, and educational opportunities within Black communities. These diverse approaches highlight the ways in which different groups utilize summer vacation to strengthen familial ties, celebrate cultural identity, and promote lifelong learning and personal growth.

~ Contributor: Jennifer Gooden



Wear Orange Walk

On June 8th, the Wiley Kennedy Foundation in collaboration with Richland County, Bethlehem Baptist Church, and other stakeholders, aimed to confront the issue of gun violence affecting local communities. To kick off the event, participants joined the "Wear Orange" walk led by Moms Demand Action, marking National Gun Violence Awareness Day. Participants wore orange attire as a symbolic gesture against gun violence and to pay homage to those whose lives have been impacted.

SUMMER TIME

Summer the shortest nights of the year. We should give thanks as we release our ways of thinking that no longer serve us. Now that the space is cleared, we should fill it with positive thinking. A guideline to positive thinking, starts with reading our Bible, because it will enhance our ability to receive deep healing, rejuvenation and joy. That unspeakable joy. This month invites us to indulge in the pleasures of the summer season and embrace the joy and playfulness that this time of year can bring. The sun energy is at its peak, illuminating our lives with warmth. As we celebrate independence and freedom. As we reflect on liberty and unity. Let us remember the sacrifice made for the freedoms we enjoy and the ongoing struggles for liberation. And spiritually, a conversion of our hearts should be enlightened to the truth of GOD, as we accept the Written Word of GOD as revelation, and as we work to apply the truth therein, "For it is GOD who works in us, both to will and to work for His good pleasure" (PHILIPPIANS 2:13).

~ Contributor: Evangelist Laila Gantt

FREEDOM AND INDEPENDENCE IN CHRIST

The 4th of July is the date in which we celebrate our freedom from the tyranny of grave injustice, and we celebrate our independence to govern ourselves. We also agree that freedom is not the freedom to do as we please, nor is independence the right to choose anarchy over responsibility. In Christ, we can experience the true meaning of Freedom and Independence. If you are choosing dependence on Christ, you are choosing obedience to Christ. If you are obeying, then you are experiencing the grace of God that sets you free. That means you are free to know and to do the will of God. It also means you are independent of sin and death. You are free to live out your life in the grace of God through Jesus Christ for eternity. When Jesus revealed himself as the Messiah, He said that He had come to Earth to "proclaim freedom" (Luke 4:18). And on another occasion, He said, "If the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed" (John 8:36). Jesus was not setting us free to do whatever we wanted; He was freeing us to do what we ought to do. He was liberating us to walk in relationship with God and to be the kind of people He created us to be. This spiritual freedom in Christ is what I call "True Freedom", the ability to obey God and choose His will for our lives.

~ REVEREND STANLEY M NASH

YAC

"Let's Roll" skating event Friday, July 19th from 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Skateland Fun Center in Elgin.

Youth Mental Health First Aid workshop,
Saturday, July 20th.
Bethlehem Baptist Church Fellowship
Hall. Additional information forthcoming.

Please see any YAC committee member for any additional information.

Bro. J. Rhett Sis. L. Mack Sis. T. Bouknight
Sis. A. Tucker Sis. D. Barfield Sis. V. Rankin
Sis. S. Bridges Rev. Stanley M. Nash - Youth Pastor
Rev. Dr. Anthony A. McCallum - Chief Servant

Evening prayer

Dear Lord, as this day comes to a close, I thank You for Your countless blessings and guidance. Forgive my shortcomings and help me to learn from my mistakes. Grant me peace and rest tonight, protecting my loved ones and myself from harm. Fill my dreams with Your presence and inspire me with hope for tomorrow. Help me to trust in Your plan and rely on Your strength. May I wake renewed, ready to serve You and reflect Your love to others. Thank You for Your unfailing love and grace. In Jesus' name, I pray. Amen.

Community Unity Fun Fest

This year's Community Unity Festival at Bethlehem Baptist Church was hosted by Attorney Tyler Bailey. It was a great day full of family fun, and community unity. At the event there was a resource fair, children's play area, Teen Talk with social media influencer and Pastor Chandler Bailey, entertainment by Kelontae Gavin, and the Just US Jazz Ensemble. Attorney Tyler Bailey held a press conference thanking the Wiley Kennedy Foundation for steadfast presence in the community .



Now is the time to start preparing for the upcoming hurricane season.

This year, NOAA predicts a very high likelihood (85% chance) of an above-normal Atlantic hurricane season, with 17-25 named storms (average is 14), 8-13 hurricanes (average is 7), and 4-7 major hurricanes (average is 3). There were 20 named storms in 2023, seven became hurricanes and three were major.

This year's list of Tropical Storms/ Hurricane names is Alberto, Beryl, Chris, Debby, Ernesto, Francine, Gordon, Helene, Isaac, Joyce, Kirk, Leslie, Milton, Nadine, Oscar, Patty, Rafael, Sara, Tony, Valerie, William.

Before a hurricane arrives, purchase a 72 Hour Emergency Kit, gather your: money, prescription medicines, fuel for vehicle, important documents, photo inventory of belongings, proof of occupancy, identification, and a set of comfortable clothes. In addition, prepare a sturdy bag for your survival necessities.

To shelter in place, gather a 2-week supply of non-perishable food. Expect no electricity so, plan for your electrical needs to including cell phones and medical equipment. Determine how you will cook (possibly a grill) and store your foods. Gather items to stay warm and dry. Organize the drinking water and water for sanitation needs. Have flashlights with batteries and candles on hand.

If advised to evacuate, do so immediately and take your emergency kits with you. Know where you will go, how you will get there, and where you will stay. Advise your loved ones of your route and practice the route. Stay safe! A WATCH means Be Prepared! - A WARNING means Take Action!

FUNCTION KEYS

Have you wondered what the top keys are for on most computers? Most computers have on their top row a series of keys that almost nobody uses, and yet, they can save us a lot of time, or at least they did in the early days of computing. These are the 12 keys from F1 to F12.

We use the mouse more than keyboard shortcuts. But they can still save you a lot of time if you get used to using them. Most keys these days have a design drawn on them to depict its function/s. Some keys may have multiple functions (when used with shift, control, function, and alt keys). Depending on your computer/ laptop and operating system, below are a list functions the keys may perform.

~ Contributor Randy Gilbert

Key	Shortcut
F1	Opens the Help Screen for almost every program.
F2	Allows you to rename a selected file or folder.
F3	Opens a search feature for an application that is currently active.
F4	F4 moves the focus to the address bar. Alt + F4 closes the active window.
F5	Refresh or reload the page or document window. In PowerPoint, F5 will start a slide show.
F6	On the desktop, F6 toggles between desktop files to the taskbar and the system tray icons. In Microsoft Office programs, F6 toggles between the menu items and workspace. In most Internet browsers, F6 moves the cursor to the address bar.
F7	Used to spell check and grammar check a document in Microsoft applications such as Microsoft Word.
F8	Used to access the boot menu in Windows when turning on the computer.
F9	Refreshes a document in Microsoft Word and sends and receives emails in Microsoft Outlook. For programmers, CTRL +F9 will compile and run the code.
F10	Activates the menu bar of an open application. Shift + F10 is the same as right clicking.
F11	Enters and exits full screen mode in Internet browsers. In MS Excel, Shift + F11 adds a new sheet and CTRL + F11 adds a new macro to the workbook.
F12	Opens the Save As dialog box in Microsoft Word.

Countdown to Real ID Enforcement

Beginning May 7, 2025, your South Carolina driver's license or identification card must have a gold star to show it's a REAL ID in order to use it as your identification to board a domestic, commercial flight, enter a secure federal building, or visit a military installation. This is a federal law.

If you do not think you have a need to fly, enter a federal building, or visit a military installation you do not need a REAL ID. If you have a valid US Passport, military ID, or another federal identification that's accepted to pass airport security, you may use it instead of changing your SC license or ID to a REAL ID.

You will not need a REAL ID to Drive, Vote, receive federal benefits, enter a post office, hospital or law proceedings.

All-White Affair

The Women's day committee sponsored an All-White Affair on June 15, 2024. The audience was blessed with all-female entertainment and mocktail bartender.



Prayer Breakfast

A Prayer Breakfast sponsored by the Women's Day Committee was held on March 30, 2024. Those in attendance were blessed with great food and prayer. The women's health fair followed on April 20, 2024.



Project 2025 Snapshot

Project 2025 is a 900-page Republican political document that if executed would overhaul our government. The plan is to implement project 2025 through executive branch action without congressional or senate approval. Under Project 2025, agencies such as the U.S. Department of Education would be "eliminated," and others, like the Federal Trade Commission, Federal Communications Commission, and Justice Department, would be put under the president's control. Please research Project 2025 for yourself. Key takeaways areas are as follows;

***It will Roll back civil rights protections across multiple fronts**, including cutting diversity, equity, and inclusion-related (DEI) programs and LGBTQ+ rights in health care, education, and workplaces. *Cut overtime protections, *Stop efforts to lower prescription drug prices,* Limit access to food assistance, *Eliminate the Head Start early education program, *Cut American Rescue Plan (ARP) programs, *Restrict access to medication abortion,* Reduce eligibility for Medicare, *Deny students access to student loans, *It reduces the ability to report and obtain justice for sexual harassment and assault. *It discourages divorce, reduces child support and forces marriages.